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January 23, 2017

The Honorable John Bel Edwards
Governor of Louisiana
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 94004
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Dear Governor Edwards:

I am writing you today to express my opposition to proposed cuts to the Healthy Louisiana program. I am concerned that these cuts to the health department would, if enacted, be devastating to the five Healthy Louisiana managed care organizations, doctors and other healthcare providers, and to the citizens of Louisiana that they serve.

As you know, the Healthy Louisiana plans are already operating on a level of funding that is unsustainable. Any further cuts to their budget would likely force the plans to take drastic measures to remain financially viable.

Additionally, cuts to the Healthy Louisiana program would cause a reduction in federal matching funds on the premium tax that would more than negate any savings. Cutting Healthy Louisiana rates would make our state's budget crisis worse, not better.

We look forward to working with you to oppose drastic cuts to Healthy Louisiana. We would be happy to provide any assistance we can, including offering information on how these cuts would affect the health plans, doctors and other healthcare workers, and the health of the citizens of our state.

LAHP and the Healthy Louisiana plans look forward to working with you to address the state's structural budget challenges and protect the health of Louisiana's citizens as we continue to improve quality outcomes in our state.

Sincerely,

Jeff Drozda
Chief Executive Officer
Louisiana Association of Health Plans